CLAIMS

1.   A method for organizing content in a channel communicating over a network with content sites, comprising:

specifying a channel node having a network address;

specifying sub-nodes each selectively having a pointer to particular content;

linking the channel node with the sub-nodes;

selectively specifying pages associated with the sub-nodes;

linking the pages with the sub-nodes; and

displaying a representation of the channel node, the sub-nodes, and the linking of the nodes and the pages.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the specifying the sub-nodes step includes specifying the pointers identifying a location of local content, content on an intranet, or content on a web site.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the specifying the channel node step includes specifying a uniform resource locator as the network address.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the specifying the sub-nodes step includes specifying a uniform resource locator as the pointer.

5.   The method of claim 1, further including displaying the content in the pages upon detection of selection of one of the pages.

6.   The method of claim 1 wherein the displaying step includes displaying symbols representing the channel node, the sub-nodes, and the pages.

7.   The method of claim 1, further including reconfiguring the sub-nodes.

8.   The method of claim 1, further including displaying a toolbar identifying browser functions.

9.   The method of claim 8, further including executing the browser functions upon detecting a selection of the toolbar.

10.   The method of claim 1 wherein the linking the channel node step includes associating the channel node and the sub-nodes with node identifiers.

11.   The method of claim 1 wherein the linking the pages step includes associating the sub-nodes with node identifiers and associating the pages with page identifiers.

12.   The method of claim 1, further including:

receiving a search query;

searching the content of the channel based upon the query; and

displaying results of the searching.

13.   A structure for electronically organizing content in a channel communicating over a network with content sites, comprising:

a channel node having a network address;

sub-nodes each selectively having a pointer to particular content;

links between the channel node and the sub-nodes;

pages associated with the sub-nodes; and

links between the pages and the sub-nodes.

14.   The structure of claim 13 wherein the pointers identify a location of local content, content on an intranet, or content on a web site.

15.   The structure of claim 13 wherein the network address includes a uniform resource locator.

16.   The structure of claim 13 wherein the pointer includes a uniform resource locator.

17.   The structure of claim 13, further including symbols representing the channel node, the sub-nodes, and the pages for displaying a representation of the structure.

18.   The structure of claim 13 wherein the links between the channel node and the sub-nodes are reconfigurable.

19.   The structure of claim 13, further including node identifiers associated with the channel node and the sub-nodes for specifying the links between the channel node and the sub-nodes.

20.   The structure of claim 13, further including node identifiers associated with the sub-nodes and page identifiers associated with the pages for specifying the links between the sub-nodes and the pages.

21.   The structure of claim 13, further including a selector node for receiving a query for use in searching the content of the channel.

22.   An apparatus for organizing content in a channel communicating over a network with content sites, comprising:

a browser; and

a navigator program for controlling communications to and from the browser, the navigator program operating to:

specify a channel node having a network address;

specify sub-nodes each selectively having a pointer to particular content;

link the channel node with the sub-nodes;

selectively specify pages associated with the sub-nodes;

link the pages with the sub-nodes; and

display a representation of the channel node, the sub-nodes, and the linking

of the nodes and the pages.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the navigator program specifies the pointers identifying a location of local content, content on an intranet, or content on a web site.

24. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the navigator program specifies a uniform resource locator as the network address.

25. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the navigator program specifies a uniform resource locator as the pointer.

26. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the navigator program displays the content in the pages upon detection of selection of one of the pages.

27. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the navigator program displays symbols representing the channel node, the sub-nodes, and the pages.

28. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the navigator program reconfigures the sub-nodes.

29. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the navigator program displays a toolbar identifying browser functions.

30.   The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the navigator program uses the browser to execute the browser functions upon detecting a selection of the toolbar.

31.   The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the navigator program associates the channel node and the sub-nodes with node identifiers.

32.   The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the navigator program associates the sub-nodes with node identifiers and associates the pages with page identifiers.

33.   The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the navigator program further operates to:

receive a search query;

search the content of the channel based upon the query; and

display results of the searching.

34.   A method of organizing content in a channel communicating over a network with content sites, comprising:

specifying content; and

specifying a context for the content, the context identifying an hierarchical, reconfigurable structure comprising a node selectively linked with sub-nodes and pages selectively linked with the sub-nodes, the pages containing portions of the content, and at least a portion of the nodes and the sub-nodes having pointers to portions of the content.

35.   A system for providing enhanced web-browsing, comprising:

a data double, comprising data that identifies a member;

service providers that provide service provider content including services and information;

a personal site that the member uses to access the service provider content; and

an engine that processes the data double and the service provider content to provide relevant and meaningful content to the member through the personal site.

36. The system of claim 35, wherein the engine comprises:

identity management that manages the data double to establish a personal profile, member preferences, member permissions, and activity data for the member; and

context management that organizes service provider content, coordinates browsing processes, and provides an adaptive framework.

37. The system of claim 35, wherein the personal site comprises:

smart pages, comprising:

a log in page;

a home page; and

inside pages; and

an adoptive framework, comprising:

selection navigators; and

a toolbar.

38. The system of claim 37, wherein the selection navigators provide direct page searching comprising:

a fixed hierarchal structure listing a web site's areas with sections and pages;

an explicit SQL criteria search, whereby the selection navigators gather and dynamically assemble web sites meeting the criteria; and

a group SQL criteria, wherein the selection navigators store the criteria, gather and dynamically assemble web sites meeting the criteria and update the web sites when new content is found meeting the criteria.

39.   A context-sensitive personal sites and membership channel system, comprising:

a personal-site application software that provides access to a personal site;

an identity and context server and database, operatively connected to the personal-site application software, that consolidates, indexes, standardizes, manages, and distributes pages and data through the personal site; and

structured and unstructured data and application sources.

40.   An adaptive framework for providing services in a context-sensitive manner, comprising:

a selection navigator that provides direct page searching;

a smart page; and

a toolbar.

41.   A product platform architecture, comprising:

add-in modules that create derivative applications;

a smartchannel engine;

an operating system; and

Internet services.